

DEPARTMENT STORE BOSSES IN WAR ON HALF HOLIDAY

The Juvenile Protective ass'n, which a few days ago absorbed the Consumers' league, has begun a fight for a Saturday half-holiday as a continuation of the work begun by the Consumers' league last summer.

But they're having a hard time of it. So far the chief obstacle in the way of the women has been the stubborn fight against the department store girls put up by Seigel-Cooper's, Rothschild's, The Fair, Boston Store and Hillman's. Mandel Bros., Marshall Fields, Carson, Pirie, Scott and Stevens are now giving Saturday half-holidays in summer time.

But the other stores are belching forth their usual whine that they can't afford to give the girls a rest for half a day during the terrific summer heat while stores in the neighborhood districts are keeping open. Their cry is that the little stores may gather in some of the shekels which the loop stores feel they ought to get.

It will be remembered that when the fight for a half-holiday was first started it was these same stores at the southern loop who fought the hardest against it. They're still doing it and rumor has it that they've carried their scrap to the floor of the State Retail Merchants ass'n.

The Lehmanns, Mollie Neuberger (who ought to remember the strain on a shop girl in summer time) and the other department store bosses have been deaf to the plea of the women that they give the exhausted, underpaid girls a rest on Saturday. Every argument presented for the girls they have answered with the old cry: "It's a matter of money, not sentiment. We can make more by keeping open."

"One Saturday afternoon 14 girls fainted in one of the stores at the south end of the loop," said Miss Elsa Wertheim, former secretary of the Consumers' league. "We found that many of the girls were so exhausted after working six days that they were

too tired to get up on Sunday. Most of them slept all day to be in condition to go to work Monday morning. A half holiday on Saturday would allow the girls to recuperate so they could really enjoy their Sunday holiday."

The fact that the Juvenile Protective ass'n has taken up this question as its initial fight since the absorption of the Consumers' league is significant. The Protective league since its formation has handled the cases of thousands of girls who have made mistakes. It is safe to assume that a large percentage of the girls who come under their care have been department store girls (the ass'n reports will verify this). These girls went wrong as the only relief from the drudgery of State street and the starvation wages paid by the department store owners.

Edwin Mandel of Mandel Bros. says he thinks a Wednesday half holiday would be more agreeable to all.

"Our store has been granting half holidays on Saturday for many years," he said. "We find that it promotes efficiency and contentment among our employees. I think there would be less opposition if it was proposed to close the stores on Wednesday afternoon. If this was agreed on we would not lose the enormous Saturday afternoon trade."

TELEGRAPH BRIEFS

San Antonio.—U. S. border patrol reports killing of Presciliano Medina, American, by Carranza soldiers on Mexican side of Rio Grande.

East Liverpool, O.—Wm. N. Taylor, chief engineer at Dam No. 7, at Midland, Pa., his wife and two children drowned when rowboat was swept over dam.

Lansing, Mich.—Gov. Ferris vetoed bill which would legalize 10-round no-decision boxing contests in Michigan.

Austin, Tex. — Following senate's course, Texas house adopted resolutions upholding president in Lusitania situation.